in favour of BCCL. However, the owner of M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. has gone in appeal in the Court of the Distt. Judge of Dhanbad. The case is now pending in the Court of ADJ-IV, Dhanbad. Thus the matter is sub-judice.

Representation Against New India Assurance Company Ltd.

2672. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received representations from Employees Associations and Members of Parliament against victimisation of Trade Union functionaries by the management of New India Assurance Company Ltd. for their highlighting corruption and malpractices at various level; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent victimisation and to undo the injustice done to the trade union functionaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These complaints were looked into both from vigilance and audit angles and necessary investigation has been carried out. In the light of the outcome of the report, the management of the Company did not find any irregularity. The report is also under investigation by the General Insurance Corp. of India. A senior executive from Head Office had also discussed the matter with the Trade Union functionary as well as the Officer Incharge in Delhi Region and during discussions, he assured that there need not be any apprehension in their mind about harassment or victimsation.

Coal Mining Operation by Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

2673. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Ltd. has been carryings out coal mining operation outside the leasehold areas inspite of objections from the Government of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the ECL to regularise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The coal mining rights are acquired by the nationalised coal companies including Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. The ECL have not been carrying out coal mining operations in any area within the State of West Bengal without the mining rights acquired under any of the above-cited acts.

[Translation]

Pension to LIC Employees

2674. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India does not provide pension to its employees under Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide pension to the employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) A Pension Scheme has already been introduced for the employees of LIC with effect from 1.11.1993. This scheme is applicable to those retired after 1.1.1986. The details are contained in the LIC (Employees) Pension Rules, 1995 which were laid on the Table of the House on 8.12.1995.

P.L.S. Finance of Delhi

2675. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned "P.L.S. Company ka mamla C.B.I. ko" appearing in the *Hindustan* (Hindi daily) dated June 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the alleged fraud done by the company with the investors;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has handed over the investigation work to the Central Bureau of Investigation regarding large scale fraud with investors committed by the P.L.S. Finance of Delhi, a financial company; and

(d) if so, the time by which the action is likely to be taken by the Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India have reported that PLS Technical Ltd. is a non-banking, non-financial company. The company is alleged to have accepted deposits from a number of depositors by offering high returns. It is further alleged that a number of cheques issued by the company to its depositors were returned unpaid. A representation has also been received by the Prime Minister in the matter. Investigations have been initiated by the local police in the